

PRIVATE banks do not fit so large a space in the financial world in this country as in England. But they nevertheless do a large business, and some of them are known to the world over by their extensive arrangements.

THERE has been just as much improvement of late years in our farm stock as in the implements with which we cultivate our land, and it will pay the farmer to better to keep up with the modern progress in this line than in any other.

BRIDGE building, a grand old art, has been revolutionized, and has so many other industries and no doubt, in a general sense to its betterment. But the first consideration in all such work must be safety to human life. Assurance in this regard must be doubly sure. The penalty exacted is heavy, and is sometimes paid by those who plan as well as those who execute.

Nor only among the poor, but among those in moderate circumstances and those with wealth at their command, is the food reform. To most people the only food reform they know of is the familiar avoidance of the apple when it is green, and the cucumber when it is ripe. Further than that is beyond the domestic pillars of Hercules. The movement is in the air, however, and sooner or later will win its way everywhere.

It is undoubtedly a fact that much of the agitation in regard to our need of better roads arises from those who ride about upon bicycles and it is kept up by them, but the readiness with which the farmers fall into line with the pleasure seekers, and the unanimity which they show, would indicate that they had been waiting for a leader, rather than that they had been ignorant of the losses occasioned by the bad roads, or indifferent to them.

If European scientists at present lead in original discoveries it is not because of their larger brain power or keener mental penetration, but because of the munificent and ample facilities placed at their disposal by individuals and by governments. When our congress is wise enough to appreciate the advantages to the nation of a thorough exploration of all scientific fields, and when our millionaires realize that they can no more honorably distribute their gifts than in ship patronage, of scientific enterprises, this country will, Bishop Newman predicts take the lead in the truly great work of which Bacon said: "The chief end of science is the deliverance of man from his present weakness, and his elevation to power and glory."

THERE is an anecdote which for nearly a generation has presented the late M. Fliers, the first President of the latest French Republic, in an historic light. Having to fight a French duel on a rainy morning, that afterwards distinguished man took his place upon the field of honor holding an enormous umbrella. His antagonist naturally objected to fighting an animated toadstool, but nothing could be done. Said the stubborn man: "I don't mind being shot; that is what I came for. But taking cold is another matter." And he fought his French duel in problematical peril but indubitably dry. If French duels then were what M. Scholl says they are now there was but one chance in seventy-seven of a tragic result; and as he shared that chance with his antagonist, his own peril was actually as one in 154. In comparison with that the probability that he would die of influenza if he did not use his umbrella was appalling! Against the background of a French duel the minor perils of every-day life look large indeed.

THE French engineers who were employed to devise a plan for preventing the terrible Alpine torrents, acted upon the theory that the presence of forests upon a surface would prevent the formation of a torrent, while clearing would open the way to their formation and to their progress. They assumed that the development of forests would lead to the extinction of torrents while their removal would increase their violence and number. Accordingly they adopted the plan referred to above, of planting the contiguous surface. The results were beyond their most sanguine expectations. The spring rains were held in check by the abundant vegetation. The celebrated torrents which had devastated the valleys and driven away the dwellers in them were subjugated to such an extent that miles of country which had become almost a wilderness are once more populated and fertile. The torrent of Bourget, which commenced at an altitude of 9,000 feet, has now been subjugated for nine years, and the forest of 988 acres, planted in 1872.

LIKE AN AWAKENING.

A CONGRESS ON RELIGIONS IN CHICAGO.

The World's Fair Year to Witness the Greatest Parliament in the History of the World—Progress of Thought to Be Measured.

One of the most interesting gatherings at the world's fair next year will be the parliament of religions, in which will participate many of the most eminent theologians and religious thinkers in Christendom. Besides these representatives have been invited from among the followers of Brahmanism, Buddhism, Confucianism and Mohammedanism. The Jewish and other faiths will probably send delegates.

The proposal has received the ap-



WM. E. GLADSTONE.

proval of Mr. Gladstone, Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop Ryan and Feehan, Baron Hirsch, Bishop McLaren, Prof. Living and hundreds more who support with greater or less enthusiasm.

The Advisory Council on Religious Congresses consists of 100 of the most eminent and representative divines of Europe and America. The members of this committee are charged with the duty of giving their views as to the proposed objects, and their suggestions as to themes and speakers of the Parliament of Religions. Though all details are not settled, the following statement of objects has been agreed upon for the proposed parliament:

1. To bring together in conference, for the first time in history, the leading representatives of the great historic religions of the world.
2. To show to men, in the most impressive way, what and how many important truths the various religions hold and teach in common.
3. To promote and deepen the spirit of true brotherhood among the religions of the world, through friendly conference and mutual good understanding, while not seeking to foster the temper of indifference, and not striving to achieve any formal and outward unity.
4. To set forth, by those most competent to speak, what are deemed the important distinctive truths held and



taught by each religion, and by the various chief branches of Christendom.

5. To indicate the impregnable foundations of Theism, and the reasons for man's faith in immortality, and thus to unite and strengthen the forces which are adverse to a materialistic philosophy of the universe.
6. To secure from leading scholars, representing the Brahman, Buddhist, Confucian, Parsee, Mohammedan, Jewish and other faiths, and from representatives of the various churches of Christendom, full and accurate statements of the spiritual and other effects of the religious which they hold, upon the literature, art, commerce, govern-



BARON HIRSCH.

ment, domestic and social life of the peoples among whom these faiths have prevailed.

7. To inquire what light each religion has afforded or may afford to the other religions of the world.
8. To set forth, for permanent record to be published to the world, an accurate and authoritative account of the present condition and outlook of religion among the leading nations of the earth.
9. To discover, from competent men, the religious which has to throw on the great problems of the present age

especially questions connected with temperance, labor, education, wealth and poverty.

To bring the nations of the earth into a more friendly fellowship in the hope of securing permanent international peace.

For the government of the Parliament, the committee has laid down the following rules:

1. All speakers will frankly state their own beliefs and the reasons for them, without unfriendly criticism of other faiths.
2. The Parliament will be a grand international gathering for mutual conference, fellowship and information, and not for controversy, for worship, for the counting of votes, or for the passing of resolutions.
3. The proceedings will be in the English language.
4. Before the meetings there will be daily morning conferences in which those naturally affiliated may worship together.
5. The evening meetings will be devoted partly to the practical problems of the age, partly to the meetings of non-Christian religionists, and partly to the sessions of a great parliament of Christendom.

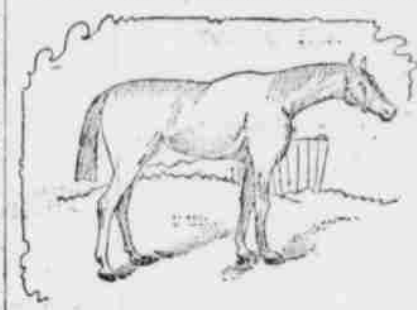
RUNS FOR CHARITY.

Baron Hirsch's La Fleche Is Now Likely to Win the Derby.

La Fleche is a magnificent filly, the property of the philanthropic Baron Hirsch, whose winnings will be entirely given away in charity. Now that Oran has been poisoned, there is a good chance that La Fleche will win the Derby.

She is by St. Simon, out of Quiver, and was bred for the Queen by Col. Sir George Maude at Bushy Park, Co. Kildare. She was bought at the sale of royal yearlings about a year ago by Baron Hirsch for \$27,500. This was the largest price, with one exception, ever paid for a yearling.

She has won about every race she has run in. All her winnings have



BARON HIRSCH'S "LA FLECHE."

been distributed among various charitable institutions. The earnings of the Baron's other horses are also given away, but it is hoped that those of La Fleche will exceed those of all the others put together.

She is a wiry animal, with hard, perfectly formed limbs and very free action. She is said to have all the necessary strength in the right places, and to be without an ounce of lumber.

Actors in Embarrassment.

Actors often find themselves in situations requiring a ready wit to save them from embarrassment, but few can get out of a predicament more gracefully than did the pianist recently at a theater in the English provinces. At the close of the third act the curtain did not drop the whole length, but remained suspended half way. Stretched on the stage lay a solitary dead man. As all endeavors to lower the curtain failed the corpse at length got up and said, in sepulchral tones, "No rest even in the grave," and dragged the curtain to the floor.

Welsh Wedding Presents.

The wedding presents of a Welsh bride are of the most useful sort. They are generally made several days after the ceremony, and consist of household furniture, kitchen utensils and sometimes money. In the invitations it used to be the custom to state that any present would be thankfully received. One invitation not so many years ago reads: "Whatever favors you may then think proper to confer upon us will be gratefully acknowledged and repaid with thanks whenever required on a similar occasion."

A Trip to the Kaiser.

The Emperor William is not a success as a yachtsman. His yacht Meteor is beaten as often under her new name as when she was the Thistle. The Emperor would do better if he were to buy an American-built yacht instead of one of those American yachts he beates.

A Fertile Land.

The Tacoma papers tell of the interest that has been aroused in the State of Washington by the prospect of the opening of the Puget Sound Indian reservation. The land of the Puget Sound Indians is fertile, well timbered, and contains mineral and coal deposits.

Valuable Information.

Mrs. Francis Fisher Wood, who is a graduate of Vassar and a trustee of Barnard college, asserts that statistics prove that nine-tenths of the children of college bred women survive infancy. This record has never been reached before in any country or age.

A Game of Carp.

The German carp sent out to California by the fish commission have driven out all game fish and aquatic birds from the waters they occupy, and now the California sportsmen are beginning to carp at the fish commission.

A Mummified Kitten.

In tearing down a house the other day in Williamsport, Pa., built twenty-five years ago, a perfectly formed and mummified kitten was discovered between the plastering and the laths of the wall.

Royal Road to Knowledge.

History is being made every day. The man who hunts for it in a library gets left, if he takes the morning papers, he catches on.—Ex.

DREAD OCEAN TERRORS.

MONSTERS WITH WHICH THE SEA WAS PEOPLED.

The Time When Old Ocean Was Impracticable for Ships and the Straits of Gibraltar Was the Limit of Navigation.

Few relics of antiquity are so curiously interesting as the charts employed by ancient seamen, says the Washington Star, which have portrayed upon them ever so many extraordinary monsters, horrible dragons and terrific giants scattered here and there.

The land-locked Mediterranean, which was the only sea known to the Romans and Greeks of twenty odd centuries ago, was filled with mysterious terrors, while the more distant lands bordering on it were the abodes of wonders and strange peoples. Gods of monstrous shape ruled the waters, enchanting sirens dwelt on the islets and rocks and on the dry land beyond were to be found weird enchantresses, fire-breathing beasts, fierce pigmies and dreaded cannibals.

Adventurous voyagers who got so far as the pillars of Hercules, now called the Straits of Gibraltar brought back intelligence that the great ocean beyond was not navigable. It was part of the mighty river which flowed around the flat earth in an unending stream.

Tradition says that there was in those times at Gibraltar a stone pillar 100 cubits high with a brass statue on it and an inscription stating this to be the limit of navigation. Beyond was a "sea of darkness," infested with terrors beyond the power of the imagination to conceive. Occasionally a bold navigator did, nevertheless, venture outside into the Atlantic but was compelled to turn back very quickly. A whirlwind would arise and threaten to swamp the vessel, or more alarming still, a gigantic hand, supposed to be that of Satan, would emerge from the ocean of eternal gloom and warn back the mariners. Not merely on these accounts was the ocean impracticable for ships. It was reported to be so dense with saltiness and so crowded with seaweeds and huge beasts that headway could not be made through it. Even up to the time of Columbus such beliefs prevailed, and his crews were terrified on entering the Saragossa sea by the weeds and calms.

Sailors' yarns have always been celebrated for their imaginative character. Those of to-day, however, have no opportunity for favorable comparison with the stories told by mariners of anti-uity. The latter were able to count upon an inexhaustible public credulity, nothing which they could possibly invent being too monstrous or unusual for belief. Their tales presumably did much to augment the fears of the sea which were commonly entertained in those days giving birth to many of the myths of ocean. They told of the strange land inhabited by lotus eaters who fed upon the fruits of forgetfulness and lost all memory of country and friends.

Beyond was the land of the one-eyed giants, called Cyclops, they said while elsewhere were to be found the strange islands where the enchantresses Circe and Calypso lived. These islands were in the narrow Western Mediterranean, and beyond was the Cimmerian land, where the people lived in darkness always, inhabiting gloomy caves.

There were the Sirens, also, whose song was death. It was said:

"Full many a mariner their songs betray,
Who lists and lingers till he pines away."
They were condemned to die when a man should pass them without stopping. Ulysses accomplished this by putting wax in his ears. So they were changed into rocks off Sorrento, where they still exist a terror to mariners. The Sirens typify the surf, whose harmonious murmurs are often the death music of the sailor. In like manner the Cyclops represent the Storm Fiend as their names show. Brontes is the roll, Steropes the flash and Argis the whiteness of lightning. Likewise the snaky Gorgons are thought to be figurative representations of the white-capped and angry waves. Not less to be feared were the dreadful Symplegades—huge moving rocks which were fabled to crush ships passing between them. It has been surmised that the tradition respecting the rocks was derived from the floating icebergs, which during the glacial period must have issued from the Black sea; but this seems hardly likely.

Seylla and Charybdis were two terrors which guarded the straits of Messina. They are still there—a formidable whirlpool on one side and a surf-beaten rock on the other. The surf waves were the dogs which barked about Seylla's waist. Charybdis was the more dreaded of the two, because it would swallow the ship, whereas Seylla would only grab a man with each of her six heads. The great maelstrom of Norway was formerly thought to be an abyss passing into the center of the earth.

The Chinese fire cannon balls at a whirlpool in the Canton river. Water-spouts were anciently supposed to be dragons. In the "Arabian Nights" they're spoken of as genii. Chinese sailors beat drums and gongs to drive them away. The devil is considered to be a water fiend by many people. Davy Jones, the mariners' chief demon is Satan. Davy is a corruption of devil while Jones is derived from Jonah, whose "locker" was a whale's belly. Accordingly, "gone to Davy Jones' locker" signifies lost at sea.

A Chance for Shorthand Writers. A gentleman writes from Australia that there is a great chance for shorthand writers in that country. A while ago an examination was held in

Melbourne for shorthand writers in the courts. Out of thirteen only six passed the test of 120 words a minute and fewer still the test of 150. Sir John Thurston, who tried to engage a stenographer for correspondence offering \$1,000 a year and board, complained that most of the applicants were unable either to write rapidly or to read their notes afterwards.

CRIMINAL CLASSES GROWING.

Increasing More Rapidly Than the Population of the Country.

Probably one of the greatest dangers to organized society is found in the criminal classes. The laws of the production and confinement of criminals with their treatment, should be among the most thoughtfully studied branches of political science. The number of convicts in penitentiaries in 1880 was 35,538, while in 1890 it was 45,233, an increase in ten years of 9,695, or 27.28 per cent, and during this interval the total population increased only at the rate of 24.86 per cent. Again, the total number of prisoners in county jails in 1880 was 12,691; in 1890, 19,538, an increase in ten years of 6,847, or at the rate of 53.95 per cent. Coming to the inmates of juvenile reformatories we find the number reported in 1880 was 11,464; in 1890, 14,846, an increase of 3,378, or 29.46 per cent. It is thus shown by recent statistics that the various grades of criminal population are increasing more rapidly than the population at large.

The same results have been shown by previous census reports. It must also be remembered that a large number of actual criminals are not under confinement, and are hence not included in the figures showing their increase. It has evidently become a vitally important question for decision by society as to the best plan to pursue toward the criminal. The Popular Science Monthly holds it to be a fact proved by statistics that a large percentage of criminals are defective either physically or mentally, and have had an unfavorable heredity and environment. Under the general system in this country no attempt is made to rehabilitate them during confinement. Criminals are first made to a certain extent by unfortunate heredity and unfavorable social conditions, and then confirmed by imprisonment. Weak character and environment bring out the unfit elements and society by its treatment hastens to provide for their survival.

LET THE GIRLS ROMP.

Mothers Mistaken in Counseling Children to Play Quietly.

Most mothers have a dread of romps, so they lecture the girls daily on the proprieties and exhort them to be little ladies. They like to see them very quiet and gentle and as prim as possible. The lot of such children is rather pitiable for they are deprived of the fun and frolic which they are entitled to. Children—boys and girls—must have exercise to keep them healthy. Deprive them of it and they will fade away like flowers without sunshine. Running, racing, skipping, climbing—these are the things, according to the Journal of Health, that strengthen the muscles, expand the chest and build up the nerves. The mild dose of exercise taken in the nursery with callisthenics or gymnastics will not invigorate the system like a good romp in the open air. Mothers, therefore, who counsel their little girls to play very quietly make a mistake. Better the laughing, rosy-cheeked, romping girl than the pale, lily-faced girl who is called every inch a lady.

The latter rarely breaks or tears her dresses or tries her mother's patience as the former does, but after all what do the tearing and breaking amount to? It is not a wise policy to put an old head on young shoulders. Childhood is the time for childish pranks and plays. The girls grow into womanhood soon enough. Let them be children as long as possible and also give them plenty of fresh air and sunlight.

Utilized for Devotional Purposes.

In one of the public schools, where the children were taught to sew, says the Boston Transcript, little Carrie, who is about 11 years old, made for herself a nightgown, very prettily trimmed. She had made it so neatly that the teacher had it placed with the specimens of work which were displayed at the sewing exhibition. After the child had taken it home her mother told her that she must not wear it now, but keep it until she was older. That night the mother, going to Carrie's room, found her arrayed in the beautiful nightgown and walking about much to the delight and admiration of a small brother, who exclaimed "Don't she look lovely?" She certainly did, but the mother expostulated and told her to take the nightgown off. "Oh, I will," said Carrie somewhat petulantly; "but I guess I can say my prayers in it anyway." Whereupon she went down on her knees, and for the next few minutes was very devout.

After a Famous Church.

The new Temple Israel of Brooklyn is built after the plan of the famous church of St. Sophia in Constantinople. The arches of its main entrance are supported by polished mottled marble columns and it is surmounted by a gilded dome. The walls of the interior are frescoed in green and gold. The congregation has many rich members.

Used by the Ancients.

The umbrella is undoubtedly of high antiquity appearing in various forms upon the sculptured monuments of Egypt, Assyria, Greece and Rome, and in hot countries it has been used since the dawn of history as a sunshade—a use signified by its name, derived from the Latin umbra a shade

ON GRIMALKIN ISLAND.

THOUSANDS OF FELINES ON A LONELY ROCK.

Where Pass in Boots Might Reize—An Uncanny Cat Colony Off the Coast of San Rusa Ventura—Horrible Legends.

Santa Barbara island, off the coast of Ventura county, is a rocky peak which rises many feet above the sea, without verdure and watered only by such lakelets as gather in recesses of the cliffs during rainstorms. It is uninhabitable and undesirable in every way, since it affords no shelter to vessels nor anything that might be of value to their crews, says the San Francisco Examiner. Fishermen touch in passing, but they are the only men who ever bring news from the bleak sentinel rock. The island is about three-eighths of a square mile in area and stands a frowning menace to navigators who go down into that part of the sea in ships. Its position, seventy-five miles from the coast line, would make it suitable as a summering place if any attractions were there, but its only inhabitants are cats. Where the cats came from, or why they have thrived upon the desolate rock are unanswerable queries. They are there in numbers and increasing.

No one believes that evolution has produced them from starfish or that they were generated spontaneously. Even the budding scientists among the fishermen of Ventura admit that the present stock of cats on the island must have had ancestors in kind. The only tenable theory, and that one which finds general acceptance, is that the toms and tabbies came from some fishing smack which touched at Santa Barbara island must have gone ashore and been left when the smack sailed away. Common sailors and fishermen the world over have in fancy, peopled unknown shores with all sorts of strange monsters and distorted men, and Santa Barbara island, in common with other rarely visited spots, has been wreathed about with garlands of seadog fancy until the superstitious have come to look upon it as an uncanny place. Sailors tell of horrible phantoms that sail through the air from pinnacle to pinnacle of the rocks, singing as they fly. But it's all cats.

The cats do the singing and if there is any murmuring the cats purr that into the eagerly receptive sailor's ears. Fish are in plenty about the island, but some of the fishermen have fancied that certain whitish objects to be seen when near the beach on the southern side are human skulls, and other objects are thought to be the bones of human castaways, who may, perchance, have, after death, been gnawed by the cats.

When all the foolishness of the fishermen is put aside there yet remains the curious fact that the island is thickly infested by cats of all colors. They manage to live by eating such fish as may be washed upon the beaches or among the rocks and find the young and eggs of sea-birds at certain seasons. An occasional feast of flesh is carried to them in the carcass of a porpoise killed from some passing vessel, or in the carrion refuse from adacent whaling stations drifted to the island by tidal currents. A precarious existence it is at best, and the wonder is small that the cats are gaunt and eager. They troop about their island, and sometimes indulge in general engravements after which the survivors devour the killed and wounded.

Six years ago two fishermen of Ventura were lost at sea. A year later another fisherman, Fazio by name, was carried by adverse winds near Santa Barbara island, and when he at last escaped being wrecked and returned to his home he told a ghastly tale of snowy skulls on the island beach and wreckage from a fishing sloop among the rocks. He fancied the skulls must be those of his missing friends. He told of angry, screeching cats that gathered on the rocks and apparently waited for his body to be cast ashore, and his story soon became a legend of the island.

Shooting parties have gone to the island and wasted ammunition in practice upon the howling beasts, but without diminishing the number materially.

The lonely island is still in possession of the pussies and passing sailors piously cross themselves as they hear awful voices coming up through the night, out of the depths apparently.

The War Out.

Neither man nor boy is ever at a loss for excuses for not knowing what they have no mind to know, or for not doing what they have no mind to do. The witliest that is recorded in college annals, is the reason given in the senate house for not answering the question: "Who were the minor prophets?" "I do not fill this in," wrote the candidate, "because the inquiry is so invidious." A school-boy has now improved upon this by handing in a written medical certificate to excuse his non-attendance. "I certify," the medical authority was made to say, "that this boy is unfit to attend school for three hundred and four days." The schoolmaster thought it odd, the interim being so long and, at the same time, so particular in its date, and upon inquiry, it turned out that the doctor had written "3 or 4" days, which the boy had altered to three hundred and four.—Argonaut.

An Ever-Memorable Day.

She: "Do you remember what day this is the anniversary of?" He: "Well, I should say I did." She: "I thought you would." He: "Humph! Who could forget the day his own house was burned?" She: "George." He: "What?" She: "It's the day you proposed to me." (Tears.)—Life.